



FIFTY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON

ARMY SPECIALIZED
TRAINING PROGRAM





WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D. C.

APRIL 1, 1943.

Memorandum for the Commanding Generals—

**Army Air Forces,
Army Ground Forces,
Army Service Forces.**

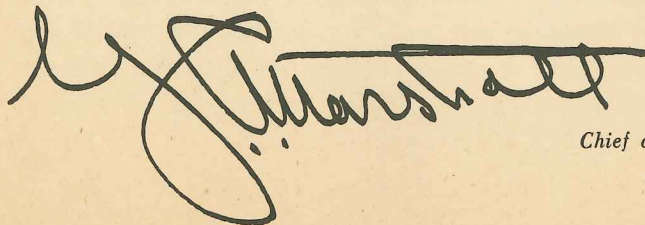
Subject: Army Specialized Training Program.

The Army has been increasingly handicapped by a shortage of men possessing desirable combinations of intelligence, aptitude, education, and training in fields such as medicine, engineering, languages, science, mathematics, and psychology, who are qualified for service as officers of the Army. With the establishment of the minimum Selective Service age at 18, the Army was compelled to assure itself that there would be no interruption in the flow of professionally and technically trained men who have hitherto been provided in regular increments by American colleges and universities.

The Army Specialized Training Program was established **to supply the needs of the Army** for such men. The objective of the program is to give specialized technical training to soldiers on active duty for certain Army tasks for which its own training facilities are insufficient in extent or character. To that end the Army has contracted with selected colleges and universities for the use of their facilities and faculties in effecting such training of selected soldiers in courses prescribed by the Army.

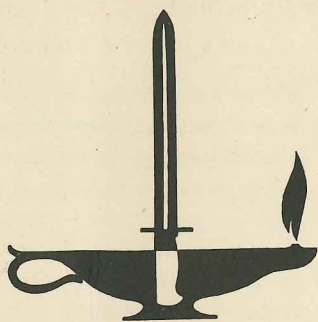
Successful graduates of the program will be immediately available to attend Officer Candidate Schools and technical schools of all the arms and services. The Army Specialized Training Program is not earmarked for any particular arm, service, or component. Graduates will be assigned according to need in the same manner newly inducted men entering the Army are classified and assigned, primarily on the basis of pre-induction skills or professions. The program is Army-wide in scope.

I desire that every echelon of command support this program and make it a success. I desire further that proper action be taken by you to insure that all in your command are informed of these facts and of the need for wholehearted cooperation.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to George C. Marshall, is written over the bottom portion of the text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Chief of Staff.

TO SUPPLY THE NEEDS
OF THE ARMY



TO SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF THE ARMY

IT IS going to take brains and courage to win this war—and something more. The “something more” is the development of the soldier’s native capacity to its highest potential through training. For most of that training, the Army provides the men and the means—in its own camps. For many lines of highly specialized training, it turns to the facilities of higher education—to the colleges and universities, their faculties and their laboratories.

Those are the reasons behind the creation of the Army Specialized Training Program. Its operation, rounding out the Army’s own training system, helps assure the Nation that the drive for victory will be carried through by the most highly developed force in the history of this or any other country.

The war may have interrupted your education. It may have stopped you short just when you were ready to go to college. If you can meet the qualifications, Army Specialized Training offers you the chance to pick up where you left off. In some cases it will permit you to complete the job. In all cases it will provide courses of instruction which will raise your value to the Army to its maximum and leave you better prepared for the years that will follow victory.

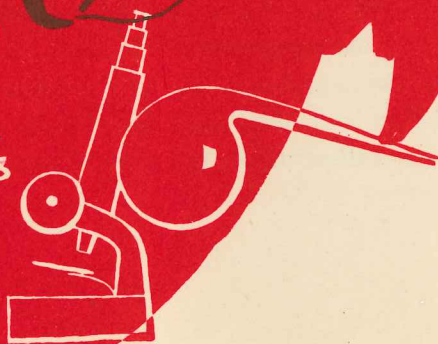
Since the creation of the Army Specialized Training Program, many questions have been asked about its mission, scope, and operation. The most frequent questions and the answers to those questions are presented here. It is hoped they will help point the way for the soldier who looks to the fullest use of his most powerful weapon—HIS BRAIN.



*J'aime nous aim
Tu aime vous a
9l aime ils ai*



$$\begin{aligned}C+D &= 47 \\ A+B &= X \\ 2\sqrt{X+ZY^3}\end{aligned}$$



1 WHAT IS THE ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM?

It is a plan to train soldiers for specific Army needs, utilizing the faculties and facilities of colleges and universities. It is anticipated that most of the soldiers who receive Army Specialized Training will be recommended for Officer Candidate School. To such soldiers the Army Specialized Training Program is preparation for an Officer Candidate School.

2 WHAT ARE THE ARMY NEEDS?

The Army needs soldiers with specialized training in engineering, psychology, medicine, mathematics, science, and also in the field of foreign language and area study.

3 CAN A SOLDIER PICK HIS FIELD OF STUDY?

His choice will carry weight although no assurance is given that he will be selected in that field. He will, however, be assigned only to a field for which he is qualified.

4 HOW IMPORTANT IS THE A. S. T. P. IN THE OPINION OF THE ARMY?

Very important. It has been assigned a priority rating following only direct assignment to Officer Candidate School or to Aviation Cadet Training.



5 IS ANY SOLDIER ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH TRAINING?

Yes, if he scored 115 or more in his Army General Classification Test and meets certain other requirements.

6 WHAT ARE THOSE "OTHER REQUIREMENTS"?

Soldiers under 22 years of age must have had at

least a high school education or its equivalent. Those with more than 2 years of college must also have had at least 1 year of college physics, *or* mathematics, *or* three college courses in psychology, *or* must have some knowledge of at least one modern foreign language. Soldiers 22 years of age, or over, must have had at least 1 year of college but not more than 3 years of college, unless they have majored in one of the following: mathematics, physics, chemistry, psychology, or engineering; *or* unless they have some knowledge of at least one modern foreign language.

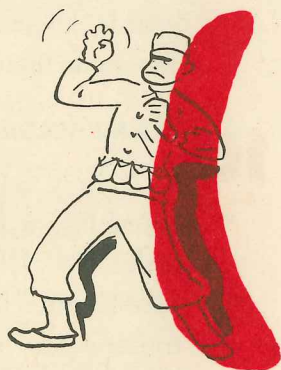
7 IS THERE ANY SITUATION THAT WOULD RENDER A SOLDIER INELIGIBLE, EVEN THOUGH HE MEETS THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS?

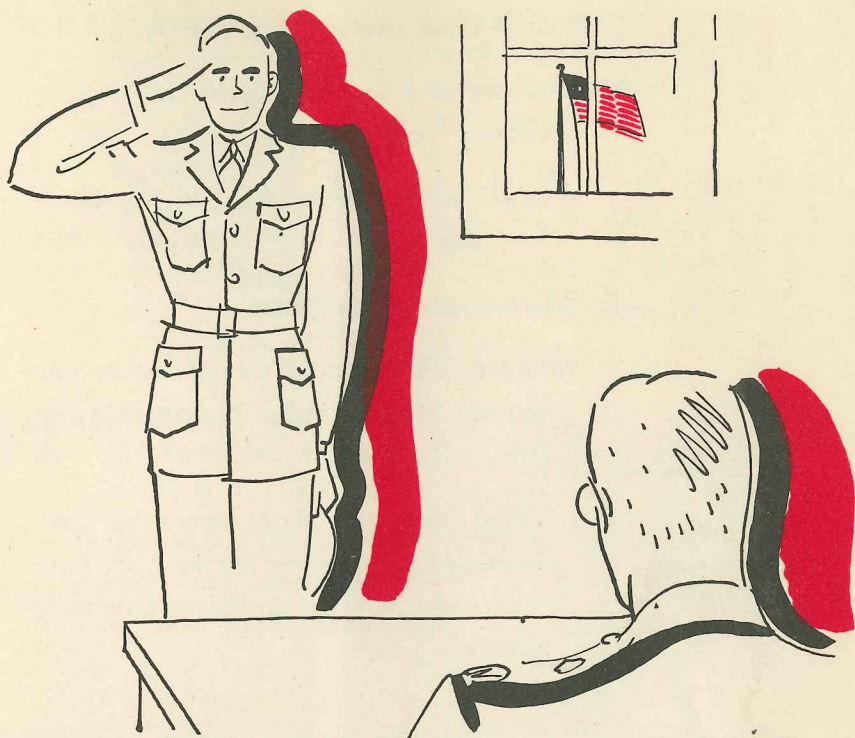
Yes. Soldiers in the following categories are ineligible regardless of other qualifications:

- a. Men in units alerted for overseas.
- b. Men destined for immediate shipment as overseas replacements.
- c. Men who have qualified for Aviation Cadet Training.
- d. Selected officer candidates.
- e. Volunteer officer candidates *unless* they sign waivers of their rights to request relief from active duty.
- f. Accepted officer candidates *unless* they have expressed a preference for the A. S. T. P. *after acceptance* for an Officer Candidate School.

8 WHAT ABOUT A SOLDIER WHO IS ELIGIBLE BUT WHO WANTS TO GET INTO COMBAT SERVICE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE?

Combat duty requires careful training and preparation. Basic military training is one form. Specialized training is another. Soldiers who are qualified to receive both must realize that it is their responsibility to prepare themselves to the limit of their capabilities for combat service.





9 HOW DOES A SOLDIER WHO IS ELIGIBLE ACTUALLY GET INTO THE PROGRAM?

Army Specialized Training Program Field Selection Boards interview all soldiers who are eligible and determine their *general* qualifications for the program.

10 ARE ALL SOLDIERS INTERVIEWED?

No. Only those who meet the eligibility requirements under No. 5 and No. 6, and who are not ruled out under No. 7, are interviewed. The Army General Classification Test score and record of prior academic training are indicated on the Soldier's Qualification Card (Form No. 20).

11 WHO FILLS OUT FORM NO. 20 AND WHERE IS THAT DONE?

The classification officer at the reception center to which the soldier was sent after induction.

12 IS THE SOLDIER REQUIRED TO TAKE VOLUNTARY ACTION TO BE ASSURED OF CONSIDERATION FOR ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING?

No. This is a responsibility of his commanding officer. If the soldier's record (Form No. 20) indicates that he is potentially eligible, he is given a Personal Data and Interview Form to fill out in triplicate. When this has been done, an eligible soldier is called before the A. S. T. P. Field Selection Board for a personal interview.

13 WHERE DOES THE SOLDIER RECEIVE PERSONAL DATA AND INTERVIEW FORMS AND WHEN DOES THE INTERVIEW WITH THE FIELD SELECTION BOARD OCCUR?

In both cases, at the installation to which he was sent from the reception center.

14 WHEN?

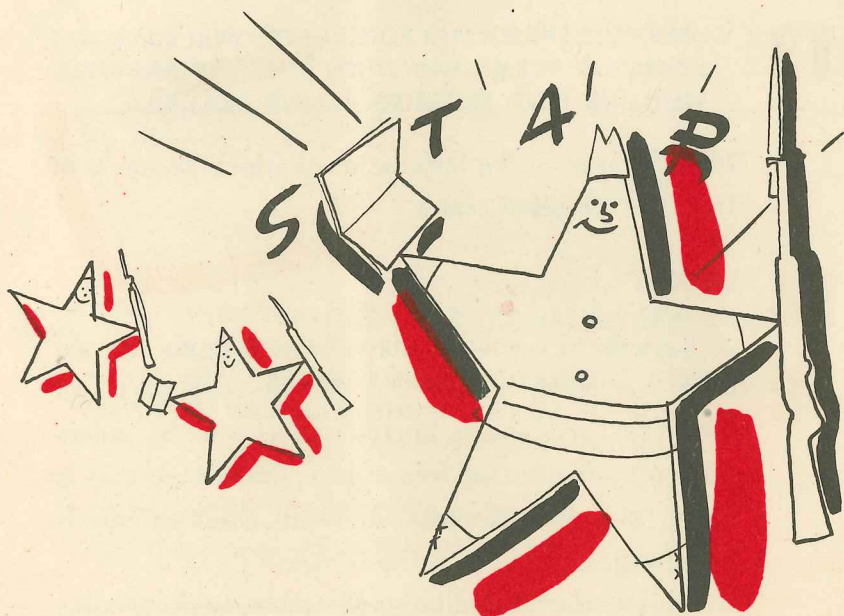
In the case of a soldier whose basic training has not been completed, he fills out the Personal Data and Interview Form and is interviewed as soon as practicable after his arrival from a reception center, and in any event at least 3 weeks before his basic training is completed.

A soldier who is eligible, and whose basic training

has been completed should fill out the form and be interviewed at once. A soldier in this category who has not received the forms should make inquiry through the first sergeant of his unit.

15 IF A SOLDIER FILLS OUT THE PERSONAL DATA AND INTERVIEW FORM, AND IS THEN INTERVIEWED AND FOUND GENERALLY QUALIFIED FOR TRAINING UNDER THE ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING PROGRAM, WHAT THEN?

If he is found generally qualified, that fact is indicated on his Personal Data and Interview Form, and at the completion of his basic military training he is sent to an A. S. T. P. Specialized Training And Reassignment Unit—known as a STAR Unit.



16 WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STAR UNIT?

A STAR Unit is established at a specified college for the purpose of receiving, housing, and classifying soldiers selected as *generally qualified* for the A. S. T. P. A STAR Selection Board, operating at each STAR Unit, interviews the soldiers, administers tests, and determines the specific assignment of soldiers found qualified for the A. S. T. P. The qualified soldier is designated by this board to a specific course of study in the highest term for which he is qualified.

17 HOW LONG DOES THE SOLDIER REMAIN AT A STAR UNIT BEFORE BEING SENT TO AN ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING UNIT?

From 5 to 30 days—depending on the amount of time required to form a section of sufficient size to be moved as one group on scheduled opening dates to an Army Specialized Training Unit.



18 AFTER A SOLDIER HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO A SPECIAL COURSE OF STUDY BY THE STAR UNIT FOR ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING, WHAT THEN?

He is sent to an Army Specialized Training Unit at a college or university for instruction in that course of study.

19 **WHAT IS AN ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING UNIT?**

An Army Specialized Training Unit is a unit established at a college or university where enlisted men receive their instruction in specific curricula and terms.

20 **HOW LONG IS AN A. S. T. P. TERM?**

An A. S. T. P. term runs 12 weeks. There is an interval of one week between terms.

21 **HOW MANY TERMS ARE THERE IN THE PROGRAM?**

The number of terms varies for each course. There are three 12-week terms (roughly 9 calendar months) in the *Basic* phase. There are from one to four 12-week terms in the *Advanced* phase, depending on the course of study. An exception is the Medical course which is longer.

22 **WHAT ARE THE BASIC AND ADVANCED PHASES OF THE PROGRAM?**

These are the two phases into which the program is divided. The *Basic* phase covers work that starts at the college freshman level. It carries through the first half of the sophomore level. The *Advanced* phase covers academic work which begins at the second half of the sophomore year. In some courses the work is at the post-graduate level.

23 **IS AN A. S. T. P. TRAINEE ASSURED OF COMPLETING THE COURSE TO WHICH HE WAS ASSIGNED, PROVIDED HE ACHIEVES PASSING GRADES?**

It is expected that the soldier will move from term to term to the completion of his course. However, all

trainees are subject to call to other active duty at all times. At the end of every 12-week term a soldier can be recommended for one of the following:

- ✓ a. Continuation in the Army Specialized Training Program.
- ✓ b. Assignment to Officer Candidate School.
- ✓ c. Assignment to Army Service Schools.
- ✓ d. Assignment to other military duty.

24

IS THE TRAINEE SUBJECT TO FULL MILITARY DISCIPLINE WHILE IN AN A. S. T. P. UNIT?

Yes. However, in the classroom he is primarily under the supervision of academic authorities.

25

DOES THE TRAINEE FURNISH HIS OWN CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT SUCH AS DRAWING INSTRUMENTS OR TEXTBOOKS?



No. They are furnished by the Army.



26 IN WHAT MILITARY BRANCH WILL THE SOLDIER RECEIVE HIS TRAINING?

Branch immaterial—unassigned.

27 IN WHAT BRANCH WILL THE SOLDIER BE COMMISSIONED IF SUCCESSFUL?

A Branch in which the War Department has designated a need for men with the type of training the soldier has successfully completed under the A. S. T. P.

28 WHAT ABOUT LIMITED-SERVICE MEN?

Limited-service men may enter the A. S. T. P. under fixed quotas.

29 IS THERE ANY PRE-INDUCTION TESTING PROGRAM FOR POTENTIAL A. S. T. P. TRAINEES?

Yes. Tests have been devised to make it possible for men between 17 and 22 years of age, who are not in the Armed Forces, to be designated for possible A. S. T. P. training after induction.

30 WHEN AND WHERE IS THIS TEST HELD?

The first of these tests was given April 2, 1943 at most high schools and colleges in the United States. It is expected that similar tests will be given each spring and fall.

31 HOW DOES THIS TEST ENABLE A MAN TO BE CONSIDERED, PRIOR TO INDUCTION, FOR THE PROGRAM?

Those who receive an acceptable score in this test will be earmarked for special consideration in the program.

They will receive a certificate, and will be sent after induction from a reception center to a replacement training center where their qualifications for the program will be reviewed by an A. S. T. P. Field Selection Board.

32 **WHAT ABOUT THE TEST KNOWN AS THE OCT-2, X-3 THAT WAS RECENTLY GIVEN TO SOLDIERS AT MOST FIELD INSTALLATIONS? WASN'T THAT A QUALIFYING TEST FOR THE A. S. T. P.?**

Yes. That was a test administered primarily to produce a limited number of soldiers prepared for advanced work in certain fields. The soldiers thus selected have already been sent to Army Specialized Training Units and are receiving instruction.

33 **WILL SOLDIERS WHO TOOK THIS TEST AND WERE NOT RECOMMENDED HAVE ANY FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR A. S. T. P.?**

Yes. Regardless of whether the OCT-2, X-3 test was taken or passed, all soldiers who meet the eligibility requirements previously outlined will be further considered for specialized training under the program.

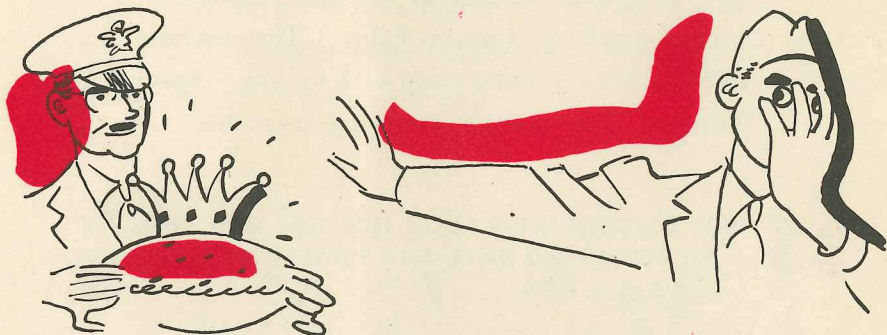
34 **IS A SOLDIER REDUCED IN GRADE OR PAY WHEN ASSIGNED FOR TRAINING IN AN ARMY SPECIALIZED TRAINING UNIT?**

A soldier assigned to the *Advanced* phase of the program retains the grade and pay he held at the time

of his assignment to A. S. T. P. All soldiers assigned to the *Basic* phase receive the grade and pay of seventh grade privates.

35 MAY A SOLDIER WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE ADVANCED PHASE REFUSE PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM?

No. Since these soldiers are not requested to accept a reduction in grade or pay, they are subject to assignment to the A. S. T. P. just as they might be assigned to any other unit for duty.



36 ARE SOLDIERS ELIGIBLE FOR THE BASIC PHASE OF THE PROGRAM, EVEN THOUGH THEY PREVIOUSLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT REDUCTION IN GRADE AND PAY IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE?

Yes, such soldiers may reverse their previous decision. The records of *all* soldiers will be reviewed by the A. S. T. P. Field Selection Board, and all potentially eligible soldiers will be called for interview.

37 IF A SOLDIER VOLUNTARILY ACCEPTS REDUCTION IN GRADE IN ORDER TO ENTER THE BASIC PHASE OF THE PROGRAM AND IS ELIMINATED THROUGH ACADEMIC FAILURE OR ANY OTHER CAUSE, IS HIS FORMER GRADE RESTORED?

No.

38 WOULD HE BE REASSIGNED TO HIS ORIGINAL UNIT?

Not necessarily.

39 IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A QUALIFIED A. S. T. P. TRAINEE TO PURSUE A COMPLETE COURSE IN MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, OR VETERINARY MEDICINE?

Yes.



40 WILL THE PROSPECTIVE MEDICAL TRAINEE BE REQUIRED TO MEET THE SAME STANDARDS FOR SUCH TRAINING AS IN PEACETIME?

Yes. Selection for assignment to the A. S. T. P. for professional training will be made with extreme care and in the same manner in which students previously have been chosen for admission to schools of medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine.



41 WILL THE TRAINEE, WHO GRADUATES FROM A MEDICAL COLLEGE, SERVE AN INTERNSHIP?

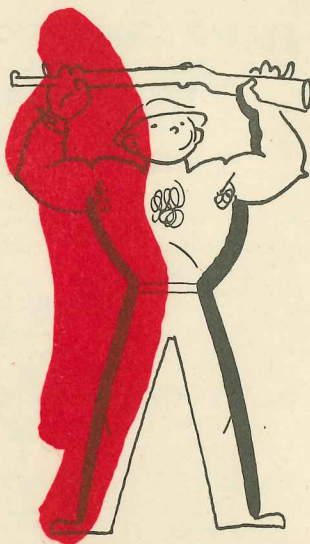
Yes, with the exception of dentists and veterinarians. Twelve months of hospital internship is required on an inactive status.

42 ARE MILITARY AND PHYSICAL TRAINING INCLUDED IN THE A. S. T. P.?

Yes, about 5 hours a week of military training and about 6 hours of physical conditioning.

43 HOW MANY HOURS PER WEEK ARE THE TRAINEES IN CONTACT WITH CLASSROOM INSTRUCTORS?

A minimum of 24 hours per week.



44 IS THERE SUPERVISED STUDY IN ADDITION?

Yes, an additional 24 hours per week.

45 WHAT IS A TYPICAL A. S. T. P. WEEKLY WORK-SCHEDULE?

Monday through Friday: Reveille, 6:30 AM; breakfast, 7:00 AM; classes or prescribed study, 8:00 AM

to noon; dinner, 12:15 PM; classes or prescribed study, 1:20 PM to 5:20 PM; supper, 6:30 PM; study, 7:40 PM to 10:00 PM; taps, 10:30 PM. *Saturday:* Reveille, 6:30 AM; breakfast, 7:00 AM; classes or prescribed study, 8:00 AM to noon; dinner, 12:45 PM; classes or prescribed study, 1:20 PM to 3:20 PM; supper (attendance optional) 6:30 PM. *Sunday:* Breakfast (attendance optional) 7:00 AM; dinner (attendance optional) 12:15 PM; supper, 6:30 PM; study, 7:40 PM to 10:00 PM; taps, 10:30 PM.

46

WILL TRAINEES BE PERMITTED TO ENGAGE IN INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS?

No. This is a war. These soldiers are being trained for specific Army duties at Army expense. Successful completion of these courses requires great concentration and effort on the part of the soldier-trainee. The time required for instruction and training and supervised study does not allow sufficient leeway for participation in varsity sports.

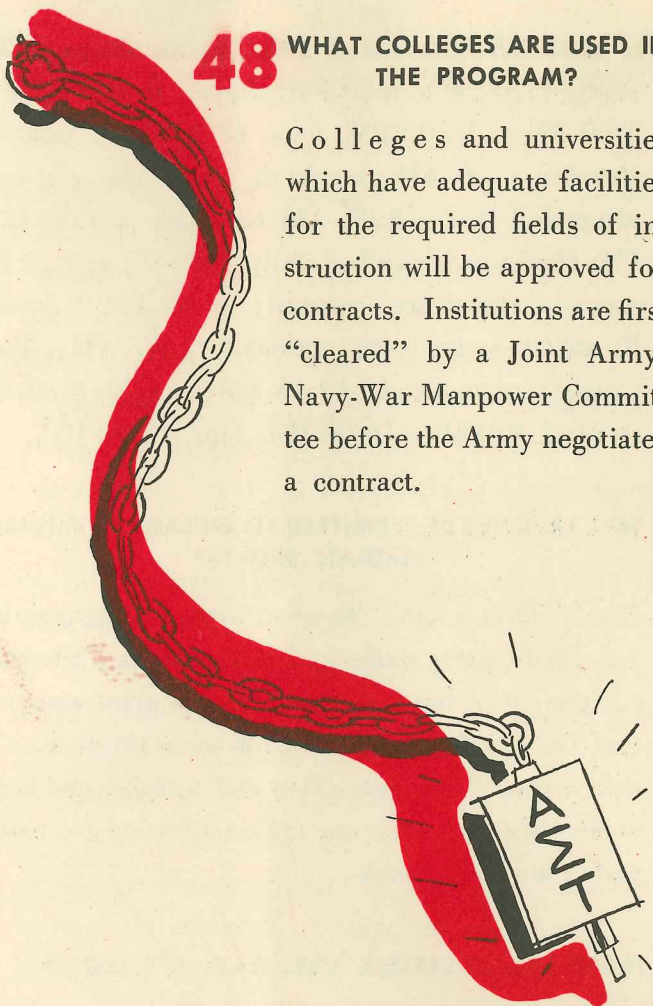
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IS THE "CADET SYSTEM" USED AT A. S. T. UNITS?

Yes. Following the system in effect in Officer Candidate Schools, trainees are organized into companies, battalions, and regiments. Within the units, acting officers and noncommissioned officers serve in rotation, holding the assignment long enough to become familiar with the duties. A permanent commanding officer heads each A. S. T. Unit.

48 WHAT COLLEGES ARE USED IN THE PROGRAM?

Colleges and universities which have adequate facilities for the required fields of instruction will be approved for contracts. Institutions are first "cleared" by a Joint Army-Navy-War Manpower Committee before the Army negotiates a contract.



49 CAN THE TRAINEE CHOOSE THE SCHOOL HE WILL ATTEND?

He may indicate it, and if possible will be sent to that school. However, transportation and available openings at schools are a controlling factor in this situation.

50 ARE COLLEGE CREDITS AND DEGREES AWARDED UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF A. S. T. P. COURSES?

Since all of the academic work in the program is at the college level, it is expected that credits toward degrees will be granted. The A. S. T. P. Advisory Committee, comprised of presidents of a number of leading colleges and universities, has recommended the authorization of such credits. It is anticipated that the colleges and universities participating in the A. S. T. P. will arrange for soldiers returning after the war, to qualify as civilian students for degrees, by taking special courses, designed to "round out" their education.



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